

# URBAN AND COMMUNITY PLANNING, MS\*

\*Starting Fall 2023

Pratt's accredited Urban and Community Planning (UCP) program gives students perspectives and skills to plan and implement equity-building improvements for neighborhoods, cities, and metropolitan areas. We teach participatory practice as the best way to advocate for just, equitable communities, with an emphasis on making transformative change through creativity, innovation and advocacy. Pratt's MSUCP requires 50 credits. The schedule of classes allows students to enter in fall or spring\*, and complete their studies in two years. To promote specialized or interdisciplinary study, half of the credits are in elective seminars and studios. Students are encouraged to take electives and interdisciplinary advanced studios from the three sister programs of the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment to customize a course of study that suits their academic and professional goals.

## About

Pratt's MSUCP ranks fourth nationally among master's degree-granting institutions that do not also grant PhDs (Planetizen, 2019). The 50-credit curriculum provides students with strong foundational knowledge in history, theory, law, economics, planning and research methods, data visualization, and spatial analysis. Take thematic electives within the UCP program on transportation, urban design, community development, land use, open space resilience, affordable housing or topical special courses. Take an interdisciplinary approach and meet your own academic goals by choosing electives from the three sister programs in the GCPE, the School of Architecture, or across the Institute.

## Community of Practice

All full-time and part-time faculty are practitioners and deeply engaged in building equity through their own work in the public, private and non-profit sectors and bring the commitment, and their experience, into the classroom. Small class sizes mean that you are building your professional network as soon as you walk into the classroom by learning directly from professionals who are helping to shape the city. While the campus is in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, the work takes place all around New York City and beyond.

## Impact

UCP students acquire skills and actively apply them as early as their first semester through internships, fellowships, and experiential learning opportunities. Coursework in UCP studios and practicums often results directly in advocacy campaigns, funding proposals, constituent briefings, and policy innovation. In studio classes, students learn from faculty-practitioners and work with real clients facing significant planning challenges, consistent with the UCP emphasis on participatory planning and equity issues. Recent studios have taken students to work on scenario planning through gaming for culturally-responsive and equitable future managed retreat in Far Rockaway, Queens; on implementation strategies for a community-based plan for a just transition-inspired, green re-industrialization of the Sunset Park, Brooklyn waterfront; and to create innovative, asset-based, racially-just recommendations to address wealth and income gaps in rapidly-gentrifying Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Independent, applied research in the form of a thesis or a demonstration of professional competence allows students to transition from UCP into practice upon graduation.

## An Investment in Your Future

UCP welcomes students from all backgrounds, honors prior related work experience and graduate-level classes with course credit, provides generous merit scholarships upon admission, and offers an array of paid fellowships, internships and assistantship opportunities to offset tuition and contribute to students' developing professional networks. On-campus partnerships with the Pratt Center for Community Development and the Spatial Analysis Visualization Initiative (SAVI) provide further opportunity for professional growth and internships. Customized advisement helps students connect to courses, thesis topics and professional networks that build toward careers. Alumni have risen to the tops of their fields in affordable housing, community economic development, transportation, government, community development and advanced research.

## Chair

Eve Baron PhD  
718.687.5641  
ebaron@pratt.edu

## Assistant to the Chair

Sandra Hetzel  
718.399.4340  
shetzel@pratt.edu

## Office

718.399.4340  
[www.pratt.edu/planning](http://www.pratt.edu/planning) (<http://www.pratt.edu/planning/>)

## Faculty Bios

[www.pratt.edu/city-and-regional-planning/faculty-and-staff](http://www.pratt.edu/city-and-regional-planning/faculty-and-staff) (<https://www.pratt.edu/academics/architecture/city-and-regional-planning/faculty-and-staff/>)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Semester 1</b>		
PLAN-600	Fundamentals: Seminar & Studio Of Planning	5
Choose 3 courses from the following:		3
PLAN-601A	Skills I: Introduction to GIS	
PLAN-601B	Skills I: Writing for Planners	
PLAN-601C	Skills I: Manual Graphics	
PLAN-601D	Skills I: Computer Graphics	
PLAN-601E	Skills I: Infographics	
PLAN-605	Planning Methods I	3
PLAN-606B	Statistics: Fundamentals	2
		<b>Credits</b>
		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
PLAN-602	History & Theory of City Planning	3
PLAN-701	Research Design for Planning Inquiry	3
PLAN-607	Participatory Planning Techniques	2
Elective Credits		5
		<b>Credits</b>
		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 3</b>		
Select one of the following:		5
PLAN-810	Studio: Sustainable Communities	
PLAN-820	Studio: Land Use & Urban Design	

PLAN-850	Studio: Sustainable Development	
PLAN-900	Advanced Research	1
Select one of the following:		3
PLAN-603	Urban Economics	
PLAN-604	Planning Law	
Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 4</b>		
PLAN-901	Thesis	3
Select one of the following:		3
PLAN-603	Urban Economics	
PLAN-604	Planning Law	
Elective Credits		5
<b>Credits</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>50</b>
<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Semester 1</b>		
PLAN-600	Fundamentals: Seminar & Studio Of Planning	5
Choose 3 courses from the following		3
PLAN-601A	Skills I: Introduction to GIS	
PLAN-601B	Skills I: Writing for Planners	
PLAN-601D	Skills I: Computer Graphics	
PLAN-601E	Skills 1: Infographics	
PLAN-605	Planning Methods I	3
PLAN-606B	Statistics: Fundamentals	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
PLAN-602	History & Theory of City Planning	3
PLAN-701	Research Design for Planning Inquiry	3
PLAN-607	Participatory Planning Techniques	2
Electives		5
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 3</b>		
Select one of the following:		5
PLAN-810	Studio: Sustainable Communities	
PLAN-820	Studio: Land Use & Urban Design	
PLAN-850	Studio: Sustainable Development	
Select one of the following:		3
PLAN-603	Urban Economics	
PLAN-604	Planning Law	
Electives		5
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 4</b>		
Choose one of the following:		3
PLAN-603	Urban Economics	
PLAN-604	Planning Law	
PLAN-891	Directed Research	2
Electives		6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>50</b>

- Students shall demonstrate both professional competency in the planning field and the ability to independently pursue original thinking and research.
- Students shall demonstrate a foundational understanding of planning theory and values, especially participatory planning, urban conditions and trends, especially in the community planning context; equity and sustainability at multiple scales; and a balance of theory and practice, especially with regard to the use of ideas and information.
- Students shall demonstrate technical proficiency consistent with the highest standards of the profession, including quantitative methods, qualitative methods, and written, oral and graphic communication skills.
- Students shall demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in planning practice, potentially with a concentration in community development, physical planning, urban sustainability, and historic preservation.
- Students shall demonstrate collaborative skills, critical thinking, and an ability to lead in an interdisciplinary environment enabled through service learning opportunities.
- Students shall exit Pratt as engaged professionals on the path to participate meaningfully in the field; help preserve the environment for generations to come; and foster inclusive planning and just cities.
- Students, full-time and part-time faculty are connected, enriched, and advanced in their professions through formal collaboration on service-oriented projects, research and publication.